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International Affairs

Deportees Give Views on U.S. Role

93AF0480A Nicosia AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic
14 Mar 93 pp 11-13

[Interviews with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, and Hani Jaradat; place and date not given: "No Fragmentation of Resolution 799: Either We Return Home Together or we All Stay"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] First we spoke to Dr. Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the official spokesman of Hamas supporters here, who said:

"First I wish to say, and for history to record, that the United States was a partner in crafting Resolution 799 and that it is the very same United States that subsequently attempted, in an effort to support the Israeli entity today, to circumvent the resolution it actively helped issue. This can only be explained by U.S. subservience to the Zionist administration. It is therefore clear that the principles bandied about by the United States are utterly spurious, unsubstantial, and a mere expedient to promote self-interest—at once supporting the Zionist entity and blabbering about Palestinian Human Rights, the very human rights being violated from dawn to dusk by that entity. The United States is thus standing by those who violate and annihilate human rights, with self-interest as its sole motivation. And I say that a state without moral integrity and without principles is not destined to last for all eternity."

[AL-HURRIYAH] The United Nations Resolutions are many and one assumes that resolutions issued by a repository of international law are meant to be implemented. Yet we see how the United States has managed to circumvent this simple resolution calling for the return to their homeland of a few hundred people, and how it is still toying with it. What, then, will be the fate of Resolution 194, for instance, which calls for the return of the refugees?

[Al-Rantisi] As a matter of fact, this reminds me of the poetic line: "Woe betides him who, one day, believes the fox does have moral integrity." To believe that America could be an honest broker between the Arabs and the Zionist entity is folly and demonstrates scant knowledge about what is really taking place in the international arena. America adopts the stance of the spectator (at the negotiations) as long as such a stance serves the purposes of the Zionist entity in its efforts to flout and thwart the implementation of any UN resolution that benefits the Palestinian people. Therefore, I cannot imagine how, under any circumstances, negotiations conducted under the aegis of the United States could possibly lead to outcomes that will address the Arabs' interests. Consequently, and since evidence abounds that Resolution 799—which calls for the repatriation of but a few hundred Palestinians—is being openly flouted and circumvented, it would be safe to assume that any other will be met with even more elaborate shenanigans.

We Expect Pressure, Not Justice

[AL-HURRIYAH] With respect to U.S. pressure on the Arab and Palestinian sides, is pressure being brought to bear on you? And if so, who is exerting the pressure?

[Al-Rantisi] Let's say that, at this stage, propositions are being made to us, but that we also expect pressure to follow. For the time being, however, we cannot say that we have been subjected to any kind of pressure. All we can say is that we have been presented with various propositions and that we are fully aware that propositions inevitably precede pressure.

Banishment: A Step Planned Long Ago

[AL-HURRIYAH] Do you believe that your banishment was in retaliation for the kidnaping of the Israeli soldier, or that it is only one step that hints at a much larger and comprehensive plan?

[Al-Rantisi] The fact is that the operation had been planned long before the kidnaping, and it is now used as a pretext to implement a policy of Rabin's, a policy he had long been dreaming of implementing. Let history record that Rabin is acting in ways that neither Shamir, nor Begin, nor any of their predecessors ever did. The policy Israel wishes to implement is that of "transfer." Its aim is to exile the Palestinian people from its land, and the banishment of 400 hundred Palestinian sons is merely one step down that road. If, heaven forbid, it were to succeed, then further measures would be taken involving Palestinians from all walks of life, regardless of their leanings. Therefore, the ultimate aim of the banishment is far deeper and far-reaching. There may have been more immediate, short-term goals, such as lashing at the Islamic organization that is now forcefully confronting the occupant, and, as Rabin claimed, smoothing the way for the Palestinian negotiator who would thus be freed from pressure, or again, still according to Rabin, dealing the intifadah a telling blow. Except, as is obvious to all, his plans backfired, and he was unable to achieve any part of them. Instead, he is now reaping the evil he himself sowed. Therefore, what I wish to stress is this: The list of names of those to be banished had been prepared long before the Toledano kidnaping. The banishment is part of Israel's policy of exiling the Palestinian people, but that policy has failed, thank God!

[AL-HURRIYAH] This banishment has resulted in the freezing of the Washington negotiations as well as the various other multilateral negotiations. Do you believe the Israelis expected such an outcome, or that they intended it?

[Al-Rantisi] What I believe is that the Israelis figured that banishing followers of the Islamic Movement would make it possible for them to rush elections in the occupied territories, single out those who do want them, of course, and give them a semblance of legality, thus making ultimate surrender much easier to achieve later.

[AL-HURRIYAH] Do I take it, then, that you wished to take part in the elections, had they been held?

[Al-Rantisi] The truth is that, as far as we are concerned, we never even considered taking part in the elections, nor can we accept them, but the Israeli entity made it abundantly clear that it feared our participation, claiming that our statements [to the contrary] are merely a trick. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami

[AL-HURRIYAH] It has been reported that Saudi Arabia and Morocco offered to take in some of you, the last group to leave.

Did any of the parties concerned approach you first to that effect?

[Al-Shami] The truth is that we have only heard of this. We are well aware of the Moroccan regime's previous position on the matter, as evidenced by a reported prayer to God that Rabin's burden be lessened. We are not surprised that Morocco's official stand on this matter is pushing in that direction, to help save Israel from a tight corner. However, no direct offers were made to us because they are all wary of making specific suggestions, afraid to broach with us such a policy of partial arrangements.

[AL-HURRIYAH] Israel announced that the cause of the banishment was the slaying of the Israeli soldier, and it is well-known that those responsible for it are members of the Hamas movement. How do you explain, then, why it banished such a large contingent of the members of Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Shami] This indeed exposes the false claims made by the Israeli occupying forces that the banishment came as a result of the slaying of the soldier because, had that been the case, it would not have involved such large numbers, nor would it have been of such magnitude. Since many of us here belong to Islamic Jihad and since there is an equally large number of people who belong neither to Hamas nor to Islamic Jihad, it seems clear to us that the banishment had been preplanned and staged a long time ago—perhaps in collusion with other parties in the area—in order to derail the proposed settlement and inject a note of bitterness.

[AL-HURRIYAH] Do you think the banishment is linked to the talk of elections said to be under consideration as an opening bid or preliminary step toward self-rule?

[Al-Shami] This could quite conceivably be part of their machinations, nor would it be far-fetched to assume that provisions are being contemplated to implement such a plan, its underlying aim being, of course, to clear the fields and get rid of all the opposing and strong personalities. Such personalities would be viewed as obstacles or impediments, possible powerful rivals to those already prepared to accept fragmentation, groomed for

the electoral campaign to appear like prominent negotiating partners. The existence of powerful personalities would expose those people as frauds, perhaps dwarfing them and relegating them to an altogether different category, far removed from the heart of the matter, which is why the field is being cleared of the powerful figures.

[AL-HURRIYAH] What is the stand of Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Shami] Islamic Jihad is adamant in its resolve not to accept the proposed settlement agreement. We categorically reject administrative self-rule and will absolutely not take part in elections that aim in that direction, but there may be other parties willing to enter them. [passage omitted]

Hani Shafiq Jaradat

Hani Shafiq Jaradat told us:

"The affair that has been called the "bundle," or "package" deal, was concluded behind the scenes between the Rabin and Clinton administrations to help find a way out for the new American Administration more than it was designed to find a way out for Israel, because the one faced with a dilemma in the eyes of the whole world was the United States. Even though we are all too aware of America's blusterings and its impudence, disdain, and scorn for the whole world, we were also aware that it found itself entangled in a serious predicament, as it sought to avoid casting a Security Council veto. This, as we have already noted, clearly underlines its impudence, a fact that has prompted numerous parties, locally and worldwide, to distance themselves from the United States. There are two questions: Why don't we hear much talk about the United Nations being so divided except when dealing with the oppressive State of Israel? It does not hesitate to inflict vicious and brutal sanctions on countries like Iraq, Libya, and others, but it seems to bend over backward for Israel. The second question is this: Assuming 100 deportees are actually repatriated, would this solution be deemed acceptable and complete by the other deportees and all of the parties concerned? What happens to the other three hundred?

"The truth is that this deal is rejected on fundamental grounds. Its rejection is categorical and final. Perhaps one of us here, in this tent, has been selected as one of the hundred. Even so, we all reject the fragmentation of Resolution 799 and stand firmly by our demand for collective repatriation, making this banishment the last of its kind by the Zionist entity." [passage omitted]

German Green Party To Help Set Up TV Station

93P50177A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
5 May 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—Preparations are being made in the occupied territories to build a television station as part of the media aspect of Palestinian self-rule.

A delegation from the German Green Party visited the Palestinians to lay the groundwork for training cadres for the Palestinian television medium. The delegation members devoted themselves to training a number of young Palestinian men and women, and the German Ministry of [Economic] Cooperation helped to pay delegation's expenses.

Those coming from Jerusalem said that they were surprised by news of this delegation. They had heard about its members' activities, but they did not know anything about any of their contacts with Palestinian personalities or with members of the multilateral technical committee in order to coordinate the programs that the German Green Party had offered.

PLO Expects Improved Relations With Gulf, Europe

93AE0436A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
19 Mar 93 p 32

[Article by Nabil al-Barad'i: "PLO Seeks To Normalize Relations With Gulf and Bolster European Connections"]

[Excerpts] Prominent Palestinian officials expect the normalization of relations between the PLO and most Arab nations of the Gulf within the next three months at the most.

The officials concur that the feelers exchanged between the PLO, on one hand, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman, on the other, tell of the dispersal of the summer raincloud that appeared in the sky of Palestinian-Gulf relations as a result of the stance of some PLO leaders during the Kuwait crisis. [passage omitted]

Some Palestinian officials do not rule out that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat would perform the religious obligation of hajj this year, which would offer the opportunity of meeting the Custodian of the Holy Shrines, without obligation by the Kingdom to formally present him with an invitation to visit. These Palestinian officials believe this "diplomatic staging" is the best of its kind to mitigate the formalities that continue to impede the dispatch of a formal Saudi invitation to 'Arafat.

Political observers noticed that during a recent newspaper interview, 'Arafat took pains to say, "It should be understood that any threat to an Arab nation of the Gulf is a threat to Palestine.... Our stance is clear, and this is what we announced with regard to the island of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra." It is widely known that Iran unrightfully occupied these islands, the legal sovereignty of which falls to the UAE.

Political observers also noticed that in his statement, 'Arafat depicted Iran as "ajam," [non-Arabs; Persians] in the context of expressing his regret over Iran's provision

of money and weapons to Palestinian and Arab extremists and allowing them to train for terrorist acts: "We have fought for the freedom of Palestinian decision, and we will not allow some Arab brethren to interfere in our independent Palestinian decision, hence we have not allowed ajam interference in our internal affairs".

There is some possibility that the normalization of Palestinian-Saudi relations is a prelude to the normalization of Saudi-Jordanian relations. [passage omitted]

In support of its actions to normalize its relations with the Arab nations of the Gulf, the PLO is taking other initiatives to increasingly improve its relations with European nations, China, Japan, Russia, and Islamic, African, and nonaligned nations. These initiatives have borne fruit in the Belgian government's enterprise in upgrading representation of the PLO office in Brussels from a legation to an embassy and in the return of dialogue with Britain to its former top level.

The PLO has also intensified its communications with the Vatican, especially as Israeli rumors are telling of the near-recognition of the Israeli entity by the pope.

A high-level Palestinian source informed AL-HAWADITH of the Vatican's communication with the PLO—that it is not considering the formal recognition of the Israeli entity unless a tangible improvement in the Arab-Israeli peace talks is achieved, in the interest of reconciling the Palestinian cause and the establishment of a special legal status for Jerusalem that guarantees the freedom to practice of all three divine religions' holy rituals.

This source stated that the Vatican also informed the PLO that Pope John Paul II's visit to the Israeli entity is not being considered at present, for the time being at least, despite Israeli pretenses that tell of the pope's imminent visit. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had sent a formal invitation in his government's name to the pope to visit Jerusalem when he was received in Vatican City last October.

The Palestinian source noted that the Vatican's letter to the PLO affirmed that Vatican officials were in less haste than the Israelis on the matter of exchanging formal recognition. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian source said that reports received by the PLO from several European capitals state that officials in these capitals believe that relations between the United States and the Israeli entity may "slacken" as a result of the fiscal austerity program practiced by U.S. President Bill Clinton, which would assuredly affect U.S. aid to Israel—which amounts to \$3 billion annually. [passage omitted]

Internal Affairs

Report Gives Background on Talks Decision

93AF0527A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
23 Apr 93 p 3

[Article: "Difficult Birth of Decision To Participate in Ninth Round"]

[Text] Amman, Political Studies Center—The Palestinian decision to go to the ninth round of the bilateral talks was born after an extremely difficult labor. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat spent nearly a day and night in Amman, the capital of Jordan, fighting severely and firmly, and without an hour's sleep, to persuade rejectionists that it is impossible for the Palestinians alone not to take part in next Tuesday's meetings in Washington.

Because all arguments were consumed and because he had no arrows left in his quiver, 'Arafat, at a meeting of the PNC [Palestine National Council] members living in Jordan, threatened to use his powers as trustee of the PNC resolutions and that whoever urged boycotting the negotiations would be in violation of the resolutions adopted semi-unanimously by the PNC's latest session.

Even before his tour, which included Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Syria—a second time, and Egypt again, 'Arafat was trying to avert any splits within the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. It seems that during the meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Latakia, 'Arafat raised the possibility of Syria using its influence to soften the positions of the 10 factions that are headquartered in Damascus and that throw all their weight behind forcing the PLO to boycott the ninth round. It is worth noting here that the opposition forces, which encompass some Fatah Central Committee members, such as Hani al-Hasan, have been able to get 108 members of the PNC, which has a total of 600 members, to sign a bill demanding that of the negotiations be boycotted.

Threats

Meanwhile, all the Palestinian delegation members, without exception, have received threats that they would be liquidated and killed if they go to Washington to attend the ninth round. These sources have said that the members' families and children have received the same kind of threats.

Because unity of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations has been 'Arafat's main concern, he has focused his efforts on persuading the Palestinian People's Party (former Communist party), which is represented by Ghassan al-Khatib in the negotiating delegation, that it is impossible for the Palestinians to take a separate position while all Arabs go to the negotiations. But it seems that these efforts have produced no positive result and that it is expected that this party's participation will continue to be suspended if no development occurs at

the last moment, especially since al-Khatib has actually expressed his intention to withdraw from the negotiating delegation officially.

It is well known that the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] (Yasir 'Abdrabbuh faction) is the only faction that has declared that it is persuaded of the need to go. Therefore, if the People's Party maintains its position, participation will be confined to this faction, plus Fatah, which is the biggest Palestinian faction.

So there will be no ambiguity, it must be pointed out that since the eve of the Madrid conference, the Palestinian leadership was eager—in order to maintain a united position at critical moment—to see that the delegation is formed only of independents and of those who are considered followers of the factions that believe in the Middle East peace process, namely Fatah, the Palestinian People's Party (Communist party) and the DFLP.

According to the latest reports, the initially-reluctant Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, has made up his mind and agreed to go but that Sa'ib 'Urayqwat, his deputy, has been going one step forward and one backward. Informed Palestinian sources believe that 'Arafat's decision to go is a historic decision and that settling the matter in this manner has confirmed finally that the Palestinian leadership has dropped altogether the past coalition-oriented formulas of decision-making and has become convinced of pursuing the journey to its end.

Return Result of 'Sacrifices, Steadfastness'

93AA0047A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 93
p 5

[Text] London—Rawhi al-Khatib, [former] mayor of Jerusalem, stressed that Israel's decision to allow 30 deportees to return to their homeland in Palestine was not a goodwill gesture on the part of Israel. Rather, it was the result of our people's continuing sacrifices and their heroic and tragic steadfastness that they daily reinforce with more martyrs, casualties, detainees, and deportees. Also, Israeli attacks on our people have influenced world opinion, which in turn influenced the Israeli rulers' decision-making regarding what they call a goodwill gesture.

Al-Khatib, 70, who currently lives in Amman, said "the return to the Palestinian homeland in general and to Jerusalem in particular is a desire that I have cherished during the 25 years that I lived as an exile. As a deportee in spirit, I have always been in Jerusalem and around it, following the tragic events, and sharing with our steadfast and dispersed people their difficulties, participating with them as much as possible in sustaining the struggle and standing in solidarity with them."

He told the Jordanian News Agency that the "implementation of the repatriation decision before our brother deportees in Marj al-Zuhur have returned was very

difficult for those who have suffered the bitterness of deportation. We consider them the pioneers of struggle. Their steadfastness and endurance of difficulties make them appreciate the significance of this return, which we consider a step in sustaining the difficult and long struggle with them and with our vanguard people and in making sacrifices. We will maintain our pledge to them and loyalty to our homeland, God willing."

Gaza Union Leader Argues for Israeli Withdrawal

93AA0045A Paris AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic
14 Apr 93 p 27

[Article by Hatim Abu-Sha'ban, former chairman of Gaza Engineers Syndicate]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israel has scored a great success by creating a new controversial issue for the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip. This has become the issue of the season. Everyone is anxious to discuss it and to express his views on it. There are those who support the withdrawal, regardless of how it comes about. They absolutely do not consider this a problem, because what is important is for Israel to withdraw since ending Israeli occupation has been a basic demand. Proponents of this view believe that we are responsible enough and are capable of taking matters into our hands, that we will not fight one another, and that we are a civilized people. On the other hand, there are those who reject a one-sided withdrawal and consider it a major problem for us. It would be so if Israel withdraws without coordinating with us or handing us over to another party. If it does so, we will be fighting among each other. Chaos will prevail, and stability and security in the Strip will be completely lost. Some others, including Palestinian officials and leaders, even went as far as appealing to Israel and urging it not to withdraw from the Strip without coordinating with us and saying that it should not leave us without a caretaker to keep us from fighting with one another.

I do not wish to comment on either attitude, the one in favor and the one against, or on the current controversy on this matter. My only comment on the argument between the two Palestinian sides is that a one-sided withdrawal (presuming for argument's sake that it can happen) will initially create problems for us that nobody can deny and that cannot be taken lightly or dressed up in attractive slogans.

Indeed should this withdrawal take place in coordination with any party, even if it is the PLO or the United Nations, there will be difficulties at the beginning. It is natural for difficulties to arise following any withdrawal. A common proverb says, "Protect your head when governments change." The meaning here is quite obvious. It refers to the instability whenever a new government comes into power. But the question to be put to those who are apprehensive of withdrawal is: Are we now, under Israeli occupation, free of the problems that some people fear as a consequence of a one-sided

withdrawal? I believe that these problems will exist whether the Israeli occupation continues or Israel withdraws unilaterally. These problems will also continue to exist even if withdrawal from Gaza is coordinated with any party. These problems will not vanish and security and stability in Gaza Strip will be achieved only by achieving just peace for all the peoples of the area, including the Palestinian and Israeli people, on the basis of a lasting peace treaty, giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination, and realizing the principle of land in return for peace.

Going back to the successful Israeli scenario by which Israel has been able to create a new controversy in the area, I wonder whether Israel will ever contemplate a one-sided withdrawal from Gaza Strip, regardless of how loud are the voices in Israel demanding this withdrawal. If Israel withdraws from the Strip will it achieve security and stability for itself? Will it have secure and stable borders? And will peace be achieved?

I believe that the answer to this is quite evident. It is confirmed by the stand of every single individual in a position of power in Israel under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who rejects this withdrawal. Otherwise this will turn the Strip into a gunpowder keg that would explode any moment and turn the Gaza Strip into another southern Lebanon.

I believe that on the basis of loss and profit, the harm that would befall Israel as a result of the one-sided withdrawal would in no way be less than the harm that would result from the problems the Palestinians would face in the Strip as a result of this withdrawal, and could even be far more harmful to Israel. Israel views all the situations in light of its security interests, and Israel's security is placed above everything else. If a one-sided Israel withdrawal from Gaza Strip would achieve lasting security for Israel, it would have withdrawn from the Strip overnight without fanfare. Israel is well-aware of the fact that withdrawal from the Strip will not achieve security and peace except within the framework of a lasting peace agreement with the Palestinian people.

The appeals, the pleading, and the warnings that some people address to Israel and call on it not to withdraw unilaterally without coordination with anybody will not stop Israel from implementing this withdrawal if it believes 100 percent that this withdrawal will achieve security and stability for it.

Therefore, I believe it is our duty not to get involved in this controversy, and we should pay no attention to the increasingly loud voices in Israel concerning this matter. The day Israel becomes convinced that its one-sided withdrawal will achieve security and stability and actually carry out this withdrawal, we must welcome it, regardless of its negative initial results because we will be achieving a lofty objective, which is to end the Israeli occupation. We must address these problems, regardless of the cost in sacrifices, because we will soon come to the conclusion that we have no choice but to organize and

our life and preserve our security by ourselves. I believe that however bad our situation may become, it will not be worse than that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, or any other place in the world. It behooves those who appeal for avoiding one-sided withdrawal and those who support the withdrawal on the grounds that we are capable of acting responsibly to now close their ranks and achieve national unity. With their help, we can face all difficulties, whether Israel effects a one-sided withdrawal or coordinates it with other parties.

Hawatimah on Peace Talks, Gaza Withdrawal

93AF0511A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
16 Apr 93 p 6

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of one wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Mahir 'Uthman; place and date not given: "Big Mistake To Resume Negotiations on Rabin's Terms"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

[Uthman] You boycotted the recent meetings of PLO leaders in Tunis, where the question of whether the Palestinian delegation should participate in the ninth round of negotiations with Israel was discussed. If you have differences with the PLO position, why did you prefer to register your objections from abroad, instead—since you are a PLO member—of attending the meetings to examine and discuss this question?

[Hawatimah] At the 20th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in September 1991, on the eve of the Madrid Conference, six principles for Palestinian participation in the peace process were defined. However, the influential bureaucratic leaders in the PLO gave in to American-Israeli terms and pressures, which were aimed at dividing the Palestinian people, by considering them "population groups" and not a single people. They are determined that Palestinian representation be restricted only to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They have written off the people in the refugee camps in the occupied territories, as well as those who have been dispersed. Jerusalem has been deleted from the agenda of negotiations.

This latest American-Israeli maneuver, which the recent Tunis meeting was convened to discuss, is nothing but a distorted formula designed to outflank the principle of Jerusalem's representation. In any event, it is an old formula, first proposed in 1990, when Yitzhaq Rabin was minister of war in the coalition government between Likud and Labor. At that time, the Labor Party agreed on the participation of representatives for Jerusalem, if they had an office or owned offices or a house outside Jerusalem. That party also approved the participation of an exile from abroad in the Palestinian-Israeli discussions, which they assumed would be hosted in Cairo.

We in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] reject the Madrid formula for representation and the authority of the American invitation, which restricts the distorted self-government to residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, without Jerusalem and the dispersed. We demand that the UN resolutions be respected. They recognize the right of the Palestinian people to represent themselves by themselves and their right to determine their own destiny. This must be the alternative to the Madrid formula, which puts the Palestinians at the end of the so-called peace train. The other participating parties (Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanians) are negotiating by fully representing their people. The negotiations are being conducted on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of "land for peace." As for the Palestinians, their representation is divided, and their authority is the American invitation.

In this regard, we have differed with the PLO's influential bureaucratic wing, since it went to Madrid on Likud's terms, but now is screaming that the Madrid conditions are unfair. At every turn over a period of 14 months, whenever the negotiations stumbled, concession has followed humiliating and disgraceful concession to American terms and pressures. That wing calls meetings of Palestinian leaders in order to use them as a cover to pass on their concessions, despite the fact that the atmosphere of the negotiations dominates the majority of participants and decisions are made that are [ignored] before the ink is dry.

This is what happened at the recent meeting in Tunis, which we and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] boycotted. Hamas also refused to attend, despite being sent an invitation.

The overwhelming majority has opposed participating in the negotiations. Most have cited the necessity of rejecting the American-Israeli maneuver and refusing to submit to new American-Israeli pressure. The majority of Palestinian leaders do not stand alone against the bases of current negotiations; the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people stand beside them. This has been proven by numerous, widespread strikes. It is the negotiating team itself that is now determining this. It recognized this situation in its memorandum of 12 January 1993, which was sent to Tunis and Washington. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief of the negotiating team, recognized that publicly in the press when he said candidly that "few Palestinians are for resuming negotiations."

The "six" points that Faysal al-Husayni submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher do not constitute sufficient conditions for returning to the negotiating table. They are considerably less than the Palestinian delegation's memorandum of 12 January 1993, which emphasized the need to change the representation to include Jerusalem and the dispersed, reformulate the authority of the negotiating process on the basis of UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace, consider

Jerusalem occupied territory, stop Judaizing the occupied territories, and stop the repressive measures. Moreover, Israel must avow that it is prepared to withdraw from Palestinian occupied territories.

[Uthman] The DFLP is one of the 10 factions whose headquarters are in Damascus. It is against negotiating with Israel on the present terms. What would your position be if the coordinating meeting of the confrontation states, along with the PLO, results in a decision to participate in the ninth round?

[Hawatimah] The 10 factions lead the struggle to get rid of the schemes of self-government, colonization, and forced emigration, and to open the door for a comprehensive national dialogue, through which we could rebuild the PLO institutions in their entirety, from top to bottom. This would be done in accordance with democratic elections on the basis of proportional representation, so that we may restore the broad national coalition, of which the PLO is historically composed.

Therefore, the 10 factions consider themselves a unifying corrective force for PLO policy. They hold periodic meetings in which they evaluate the steps taken to achieve their goals. They formulate tactics to counter the plots of self-government, forced emigration, and colonization, relying on basic principles that can channel the energies of all the Palestinian people at home and abroad into the process of resisting and opposing plots to eliminate the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people.

If the confrontation states and the PLO decide to give in and submit to American pressure to go to the next bilateral negotiating session on 20 April, those parties will have decided to resume negotiations under the Madrid formula and, thereby, will have committed a major mistake, by accepting the resumption of negotiations in accordance with the latest American-Rabin terms, which are based on smashing and ignoring Security Council Resolution 799. In plain language, we say that if the resolution pertaining to the return of 400 deportees to their families and homes is violated, smashed, or ignored, what would be the fate of the other UN resolutions at the hands of Rabin's government and the American Administration? Certainly, they would be smashed. The main lesson to be learned is that the Rabin government will not be made to implement Resolution 799, since that would be a precedent for implementing the other UN resolutions, 242, 338, 194, and 273. Arab and Palestinian submission to this policy of Rabin's would put the Arab parties, and especially Palestine, in a dilemma, since they would not be able to impose implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of "land for peace." Questions about the fate of these resolutions will be posed when the negotiations touch on issues of land, water, natural resources, the right to self-determination, Israeli withdrawal, and the settlements. Certainly, these resolutions will be jumped over and smashed.

[Uthman] Perhaps you have noted that the present balance of power does not favor the Arabs and Palestinians, because of the emergence of the United States as the sole superpower, along with its being allied with Israel. In light of these factors, what is the alternative to negotiations that you propose, intifadah? In the long run, can you translate the results of intifadah into a peaceful solution?

[Hawatimah] There is no doubt that the balance of international power, and even Arab power, has been upset in recent years to the advantage of the enemies' front, especially after the Soviet Union's collapse. The Soviet Union was a friend to our people and sympathetic to their national issue. Along with our understanding regarding the emergence of the United States as the only military superpower, eager to cement the ties of its relationship with Israel and continue to beef up their military and strategic alliance, it also became clear during Rabin's visit to Washington that the Clinton administration was eager to develop this distinguished relationship, in order to guarantee Israel's strategic military and economic superiority in the area. However, the balance of power is not computed only by negative factors. True revolutionary, national reality also takes into account elements and factors of power that we possess. The Soviet Union's collapse does not mean that we have lost the support of the best forces in the world, eager for justice and for people to attain their rights. There are powers, which are still influential in drawing the world's political map, that are supporting our people's just struggle for their legitimate rights. The decline of the Arab order does not mean that all Arab powers and Arab peoples, parties, and national forces, which support our people's struggle, have become ineffective. This is a desperate, destructive, and futile statement spread by lackey forces of the American administration. [passage omitted]

The intifadah is constantly escalating and developing. The Rabin government has one choice: to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. There is talk about this withdrawal in Israeli circles, especially because any decision will not come out of a vacuum. On the contrary, it will be a reflection of a balance of power in the territory and in the street that must be developed.

We are prepared to take over Gaza immediately after the Israeli withdrawal. All of the shouts of blackmail and fear of Palestinian-Palestinian fighting does not frighten us. Our desire is to force the occupation to withdraw, not only from Gaza, but also from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state.

Developing the intifadah option is the way to attain our national Palestinian rights. We have said that in response to the hopeless, futile invitations that have proclaimed the political exploitation of the intifadah since the PNC session in Algiers, which declared the independence of the state of Palestine. Despite the fact that the intifadah has continued for 65 months, these

invitations continue to be sent from time to time, because of their lack of confidence in the people and the intifadah. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people have the elements to improve the existing balance of power by turning away from the policy of splitting the Palestinian street, fighting against decisions of Palestinian legitimacy, and avoiding the bureaucratic deals. All of this can be done by returning to Palestinian national unity through a comprehensive, national dialogue in order to rebuild the PLO institutions completely. We are confident that the national democratic trend within the ranks of our people is the fundamental course and principal force. It is a safety valve in response to the bureaucratic wing in order to avoid the policy of constant concessions.

Al-Husayni's Appointment Seen as Israeli Tactic

93AA0045C Paris AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic
21 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Wahib Abu-Wasil]

[Text] Tel Aviv's approval of Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the National Guidance Committee, participating in the current Arab-Israeli peace talks can be construed as a concession on the part of Israel, which used to reject the idea of any person born in Jerusalem participating in the Palestinian delegation from the time the Madrid conference was convened and up to this day.

But experts in the Palestinian-Israeli affairs believe that Israel's approval of Faysal al-Husayni's participation was only a tactic aimed at giving momentum to the peace process, after the Arabs refused to return to the negotiating table unless Israel allows the Palestinian deportees who it sent a few months ago to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon to return to their homes.

It also appears that Israel's aim behind al-Husayni's participation is to create a gap between the Palestinians at home and their legitimate leadership abroad. Israel sought to make the world understand that it is ready to deal with the Palestinian leadership at home but it refuses to hold any negotiations with the PLO leadership and with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, something that the United States also supports.

As long as the Palestinians agree among themselves that the PLO is the legitimate authority for which there is no substitute so far, the tactics to which the United States and Israel resort are immaterial. Both countries want to create in the occupied territories a new psychological state, which, briefly put, is to impress that the Palestinian people at home are represented by the leadership at home and, therefore, there is no need now for any guidance from the PLO in Tunis.

Israel also wanted to make the Palestinians at home understand that no progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process can be achieved except through the leaders at home, including Faysal al-Husayni, who they tried to

project as the man who can face up to 'Arafat, since he is the scion of an ancient Jerusalem family that has produced historic leaders.

This projection did not please al-Husayni himself who recently accompanied 'Arafat to Cairo to hold talks there. Al-Husayni wanted the Americans more so than the Israelis to understand that any peace agreement should eventually be signed with the PLO, which the Palestinian people have chosen to be their sole legitimate leadership, and not with any other party.

Al-Husayni has said several times that he is not after leadership. Rather, he wants to participate in the conclusion of a historical peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis. How this can be achieved at present is unimportant, but what is important is the objective.

Report Reviews 'Red Star' Operations vs. Israel

93AF0511B Nicosia AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic
4 Apr 93 pp 12-13

[Article: "Red Star, Revolutionary Armed Forces Escalate Activities Against the Enemy"]

[Text] During the past two years, and especially during the last four or five months, the Palestinian intifadah has entered a specific phase in which operations of violent military confrontation with the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied nation have come to light.

The Red Star forces, the strike force of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the nation, have had a prominent share in these military confrontations. They complement the operations of the DFLP's Revolutionary Armed Forces across the occupied Lebanese strip, reflecting the integrated struggle of the Palestinian people and the unity of their struggle in the occupied nation, the camps of the dispersed, and the Palestinian refugees. This role has tangibly escalated in recent weeks, coinciding with the DFLP's passage into its 25th year, because the Red Star forces and the Revolutionary Armed Forces see this anniversary as an opportunity to confirm their adherence to the DFLP's unifying, realistic, national political plan through escalating their military operations in confrontation with the Israeli occupation forces.

One of the most significant of these operations was carried out on 14 February 1993 by the Martyr Abu-al-Ghadab ['Abd-al-Hamid Surur] Group from the Red Star forces. The group ambushed a vehicle transporting Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, on the road between the Qiryat Arba' settlement and Hebron. While the settlers' vehicle was under way, the group fired machine guns at it, and a spokesman for the occupation army acknowledged the wounding of two settlers, describing the wounds as dangerous. The occupation forces were unsuccessful in attempts to arrest the group's heroes, who returned to their bases safely, despite the campaigns of encirclement, searches, house raids, and

arrests that were carried out, after a curfew and military blockade were imposed on Hebron for four days.

On the same day, 14 February, the Martyr Abu-'Adnan ('Abd-al-Karim Hamad Qays) Group from the Revolutionary Armed Forces set another ambush on the road between the villages of Tayr Harfa and Jabin in occupied South Lebanon. When a client patrol of the Israeli occupation forces passed, the group's heroes launched an attack against the patrol, which was composed of a Merkava tank, a troop carrier, and a military truck. They launched LAW missiles, after detonating explosive charges, and fired machine guns. The enemy patrol suffered a direct hit. Occupation forces rushed to the area with many reinforcements. Out of appreciation for the steadfastness of the deportees and their insistence on their right to return to their country and their families with the implementation of Resolution 799, the leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces code-named this attack "Operation Support the Deportees." In a subsequent communique, the forces' spokesman announced the safe return of all group heroes to their bases after they successfully completed their mission.

Less than two days after these two heroic operations, on 16 February 1993, the nation sent another group of Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Martyr Mithqal Yusuf Darghamah, from the unit of intifadah martyrs. During its trip to carry out its mission inside occupied Palestine, at 2100 hours, it clashed with a 30-man Israeli infantry force from the Golani Brigade on the occupied border strip in (Isba' al-Jalil), between the settlement of al-Manarah and the town of Hulah. The clash continued until the morning of 17 February. In this battle, machine guns and hand grenades were used. The occupation forces, admitting that one of its personnel was wounded, intensely shelled the area, and used large numbers of reinforcements in an attempt to storm the group heroes. They were only able to do that after sunrise on 17 February. The Revolutionary Armed Forces issued a statement, in which they confirmed that the group's blessed heroes were able to kill three Israeli Defense Force personnel and wound a number of others before two of the group members were martyred.

On the anniversary of the Glorious Departure, 22 February 1993, the Martyr Ahmad al-Kaylani Group set up an ambush on the road leading to the settlement of (Tafuh), on the Hawarah-(Jarma'in) Road in the West Bank's Nabulus District. They ambushed a bus carrying settlers, escorted by a military jeep, and opened fire with machine guns. The clash continued for four hours. The settlers suffered several wounded, who were acknowledged by an occupation army spokesman, without specifying the number. It is noteworthy that the group's heroes returned safely to their bases, despite the blockade imposed by the occupation forces, which had hurried to the scene of the clash. Searches and house raids were carried out, and a curfew was imposed for three consecutive days.

On 8 March 1993, a commando group from the Red Star forces clashed for an hour with an Israeli military patrol. Witnesses said that a military ambulance transported a number of wounded, while enemy military mechanized patrols and helicopters rushed to the scene and launched an arrest campaign in the area, seeking to arrest the group's heroes, who were able to return safely to their bases.

On the occasion of World Jerusalem Day, a joint group from the DFLP's Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—the Martyrs' Wadi' Haddad and Khalid Nizal Group—went into the security belt area in southern Lebanon to attack one of the Israeli positions there, located between Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun. During their trip to the target, they clashed with an enemy patrol and showered it with a hail of machine gun fire and hand grenades. This occurred at midnight on 20 March 1993. The clash continued until the morning's first hours. The enemy used all types of weapons. His artillery, deployed in the (Muhayyib)-Bra'shit and Muhayt Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun areas, raked the scene of the fighting, because the group had inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli enemy's forces.

As a result of this clash, the Revolutionary Armed Forces suffered one martyr and one prisoner. Comrade 'Asim Badr Musa (Abu-Sakhr) was killed, and Comrade 'Abd-al-Zaytun was taken prisoner, after having been wounded and his ammunition supply exhausted. The rest of the heroic group members returned safely to their bases.

At the same time, on 20 March, the Red Star forces' Martyr Ja'afar Duwaykat Group, ambushed an Israeli occupation army patrol, composed of a military bus and one jeep, on the (Ari'il) settlement road. This is the largest of the Israeli occupation settlements in the occupied territories, located southwest of Nabulus. The group fired machine guns at the patrol, and the fighting continued for four hours. After the clash, the group was able to withdraw safely. The Israeli patrol leader, a sergeant, was killed, and two others were wounded. All of the attempts to encircle and search the area by the occupation forces resulted in failure to arrest any of the group's heroes.

Jordan Bank To Open West Bank Branches

93AE0436B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
25 Mar 93 p 13

[Article by Nabil Kukali: "Jordan Bank to Open its First Branch in the Occupied Territories in Early July"]

[Text] Jerusalem—Jordan Bank announced that the first of its branches in the occupied territories would commence operations in Ramallah at the beginning of next July. Yahya al-Qadhmani, the bank's representative in the occupied territories, informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that two other branches, in the cities of Nabulus and Hebron, would commence operations on 1 October.

Al-Qadhmani explained that the bank "will inaugurate other branches in the remaining West Bank areas. Concerning Gaza, bank management is giving weighty thought to the matter, especially since the Israeli authorities do not disapprove".

With respect to Jerusalem, al-Qadhmani said that the Israeli authorities forbade the mere mention of the possibility of opening a branch of the Jordan Bank in East Jerusalem.

On the possibility that Arab citizens of East Jerusalem avail themselves of the bank's services, he said: "The Israeli Administration does not allow Jerusalem residents to open accounts in Jerusalem banks without the written approval of the Israeli authorities. Even if such were to occur, a bank may not offer any facilities, with the exception of certain routine ones".

Economic experts in the occupied territories believe that East Jerusalem citizens will be denied the services of an Arab bank, which would compel them to deal with branches of the bank located in adjacent cities.

In response to a question about the size of the deposits expected to be attracted by the bank in the occupied territories, he said, "There are restrictions imposed by the Israeli Central Bank in this connection. It has set an upper limit on the size of deposits that Jordan Bank may accept from citizens of the Occupied Territories." Al-Qadhmani did not specify the size of this ceiling.

He indicated that Jordan Bank will not be permitted to invest its funds in the East Bank and that such funds would have to remain in the West Bank. Moreover, Israeli authorities have not permitted the bank to deal in foreign currencies, with the exception of the dinar and shekel, but added that negotiations with the Israeli Central Bank were ongoing on the matter, and there were promises that this would be permitted in the future.

Palestinian economists believe that nonauthorization of the bank to deal in foreign currencies will deprive it of an important means of protecting its deposits from the pitfalls of continual changes in the exchange rate of the shekel and dinar, the constant cutback in the value of the shekel, and inflationary factors within the Israeli and Jordanian economies.

Jordan Bank will also be unable to undertake any foreign transactions, such as the opening of letters of credit, unless it is through an Israeli bank sharing commissions with it. This would lessen Jordan Bank's control of these operations, perhaps affecting the efficiency of such operations.

Despite the terms imposed by the Central Bank of Israel on Jordan Bank, al-Qadhmani believes that the terms won by Jordan Bank are much more favorable than those imposed on the Bank of Cairo, Amman. Nevertheless, all Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank, including the Bank of Cairo, Amman, will benefit from the new terms.

Concerning whether Jordan Bank had received Central Bank of Jordan's approval to inaugurate branches in the occupied territories, al-Qadhmani said, "Jordan Bank has received preliminary approval from the Central Bank of Jordan, however, final approval has not yet been obtained." He believes that the Central Bank of Jordan has no objection to the inauguration of branches of all Jordanian banks in the West Bank, with the knowledge that any Jordanian bank that has a permit from the Central Bank of Israel would be able to inaugurate a branch in the West Bank.

Jordan Bank will attempt to create 200 jobs in the first phase. This figure may reach 500 upon completion of the branches in the cities of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Al-Qadhmani added, "Bank General Manager Fayiz Abu-al-'Aynayn, along with a technical team from Amman, will arrive in the occupied territories in the next two weeks to appoint new employees to manage the three bank branches".

He expected Jordan Bank to play a prominent role in financing of the economic development in the occupied territories, by way of the accumulation of savings and directing them towards the necessary investment projects to push forth economic progress. He pointed out that the bank will focus on housing projects, wherein housing bids will be offered. Moreover, the bank will provide loans to the industrial and trade sectors and participate in the establishment of many companies in support of the Palestinian economy.

Movements Deny Links With Assassination Victim

Hamas Claims No Link With Hulayhil

93P50176A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 93
p 5

[Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Group in Lebanon have dismissed any political dimension in the assassination of Shaykh Tahir Hulayhil in south Lebanon. Sources affirmed to AL-HAYAH that the incident resulted from family differences.

Hulayhil was assassinated the day before yesterday in a camp near Sidon in south Lebanon, and was described as "a high official in Hamas." Hamas sources denied this and said that Hulayhil had no association with Hamas, pointing out the absence of official Hamas activity in Lebanon. The Islamic Group in Lebanon, which most Palestinian Islamists are associated with and which has documented ties with Hamas, asserted the same thing. Islamic Group sources noted that Shaykh Hulayhil was linked to the "Islamic Mujahid Movement" [al-Harakah al-Islamiyah al-Mujahidah] in the camps near Sidon, which is an independent movement said to be a Fatah supporter that later separated from Fatah to work independently. The sources say that it was close to "the Abyssinians" [al-ahbash] and is active in work in the mosques. [passage omitted]

Mujahid Movement Issues Correction

93P50176B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 93
p 6

[Text] The Islamic Mujahid Movement has explained that the person assassinated in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in south Lebanon on 25 April is "a Muslim youth, not a shaykh. His name is Tha'ir Hulayhil (age 20), and he has never been included in the ranks of the movement." The movement's press office in Lebanon was commenting on an item that AL-HAYAH published the day before yesterday. The office explained that "the Islamic Mujahid Movement is independent, as you noted in your newspaper, and this contradicts what you noted in the same space—that it is a Fatah supporter. Rather, the movement is in opposition to Fatah politically and intellectually."

Interviewees See Road Expansion as Political Move

93AA0045B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 93
p 5

[Article by Ruba al-Husari]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—Stunned young men stood at the top of the hill overlooking the "Fire Valley," at the western al-Sawahirah village, adjacent to Jerusalem. They were watching the bulldozers that started work early yesterday to expand the road that is supposed to connect the northern part of the West Bank to the southern part, without having to pass through East Jerusalem. "They are preparing the roads to the future independent state for us," one said sarcastically.

But what appears to be the subject of sarcasm could, in fact, be a fearful reality, in view of what it could mean at the present time and what dangers it portends for the future. A few days ago Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni, at a meeting with Palestinian Journalists in his office in Jerusalem, was asked why the Palestinians do not undertake improving the rough and dangerous road that the motorists have to take from the southern part of the West Bank to its north since they have been banned from entering East Jerusalem. He responded angrily, "Because we do not accept the status quo that Israel is trying to impose on us by denying our rights in Arab Jerusalem."

Yesterday Israel sent its bulldozers in order to expand that road, which is no more than 2 meters wide, in the hope that the Palestinians will take it over when they establish self-rule in the occupied territories, with the exception of Jerusalem. Israel would thereby create a new status quo that would confirm its annexation of Arab Jerusalem.

Tawfiq, the Palestinian contractor whom the public works department of the West Bank military administration charged with expanding the road between western al-Sawahirah, near Jerusalem, and Bayt Sahur on the outskirts of Bethlehem, said, "They [the Israelis]

want it to be a permanent road for the exclusive use of the Palestinians, in order to replace the Jerusalem-Hebron road, which the Israelis will keep for themselves. In less than a month, this road will be an 8-meter-wide paved road."

The present road, which hundreds of people drive on daily between Hebron and Bethlehem and northward to Ramallah, Nabulus, and Janin becomes winding near al-'Ubaydiah village at Bayt Sahur's eastern approach. Drivers negotiate the road slowly and carefully, fearing vehicles from the opposite direction pushing them off the road and into the deep ravine. It should be recalled that part of this road was built during the Jordanian rule of the West Bank. Work on it was not completed because the main road that connected the northern part of the West Bank to the southern part following its occupation crossed Arab Jerusalem at the point known as no-man's-land along the cease-fire line.

After the hazardous trip between al-'Ubaydiah and western al-Sawahirah, the motorists follow a road that was built for Jewish settlers alongside the rear part of Ma'ale Adumim settlement, which Israel annexed to Jerusalem municipality, but without annexing the Arab villages that are closer to the Holy City. The road, considered to be within West Bank borders, heads toward Jericho and then northward to the northern West Bank cities of Ramallah, Nabulus, Janin, and Tulkarm.

Observers believe that by "offering" to build this road, Israel aims to counter Palestinian accusations that, by separating the northern part of the West Bank from the southern part, it has created cantons and separated the Gaza Strip completely by banning the Palestinians from entering Israel, since no road exists linking the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that does not cross Israel.

It was announced last week that a bus service has been established between Ramallah and Bethlehem without stopping in Arab Jerusalem. But the project failed after the Palestinians boycotted the bus service that was likened to the Jewish ghetto's bus service in Warsaw. They were also boycotted by Arab bus companies.

Despite the stand the [Palestinian] political leadership adopted by rejecting what Israel is trying to impose on Arab Jerusalem, it is feared that the need might force the Palestinians to accept this situation in order to ease difficulties of the daily life. This need was demonstrated by small trucks with Janin license plates seen crossing the hazardous road carrying furniture that they are trying to deliver to Bethlehem or Hebron.

Alongside the road near al-Sawahirah village, 'Ali Hijazi, a young man from the village, set up a simple shack to serve refreshments to travelers. The young man, who previously worked in a restaurant in Arab Jerusalem before the siege of the West Bank, said that soon his place will expand and will have tables and chairs, because the new road is going to be the main road.

Jerusalem leader Faysal al-Husayni also said that "the West Bank and Gaza Strip can be restored, but Jerusalem can be restored by imposing status quo. The challenge that we are facing today is that Israel is trying to force the Palestinians to pursue a race with time in order to see who is more capable of imposing the status quo."

Closure Said To Cost \$45 Million Daily

93AF0523A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 93
p 12

[Article by Salah Hazin: "West Bank and Gaza Losing \$45 Million Daily"]

[Text] Amman—A Palestinian economic expert has estimated at \$45 million daily the loss suffered by the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the closure of the crossing points between the occupied territories and Israel. The expert, who arrived from the occupied West Bank as one of the Palestinian notables who have come to Jordan to coordinate with the PLO leadership and Jordanian officials, has said that this figure has to be doubled to make it possible to estimate the true losses suffered by Palestinians working in Israel because the \$45 million figure represents the net daily wages the workers bring back with them and does not include their daily expenditures.

In an exclusive interview with AL-HAYAH, the expert said that his estimate is based on the fact that the number of Palestinians who work behind the Green Line in Israel is 130,000 workers, not 100,000 or 110,000 workers, as estimates that rely on Israeli figures say. He added that these other estimates forget that the Israeli figures do not include Palestinian workers who come from East Jerusalem and who amount to nearly 16 percent the total number of Palestinian workers employed in Israel. The expert noted that his estimate is based on the fact that each Palestinian worker earns a wage of nearly \$3.50 [figure as published] daily.

Closure of West Bank and Gaza Strip

The Palestinian economist has said that the difficult march started nearly five years ago and that closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip border is tantamount to the epitome of hardship for Palestinians under the occupation. He noted that the "misery march," as he calls it, started in 1988 when the Jordanian dinar lost nearly half of its value. The dinar, along with the U.S. dollar and the Israeli shekel, is a major currency in transactions in the West Bank. The economist went on to enumerate the significant stops in the "misery march," saying that 1990 was an economic catastrophe in the real sense of the word because numerous Palestinian families lost the remittances sent to them by their expatriate members. Moreover, nearly 100,000 Palestinians were sent back home to become dependent on their families.

The Palestinian economist also told AL-HAYAH that the weather conditions experienced by the occupied

Palestinian territories have not been kind to Palestinian farmers, considering that the agricultural sector suffered enormous losses because of the cold and frost wave and the winds that destroyed crops and tore up plastic covers, thus killing large numbers of chickens, especially in Gaza Strip. The economist did not offer a figure on the size of these losses, saying only that they are estimated at hundreds of thousands of dinars.

Former Ambassador To Start 'Independent' Paper

93AF0480C London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
24 Mar 93 p 20

[Article: "Palestinian AL-SALAAM Newspaper Independent of the Organization"]

[Text] The first issue of a Palestinian daily newspaper is to appear in May under the name AL-SALAAM. Its editor in chief, Rubhy Hallum (Abu-Firas), is said to have recently resigned from his responsibilities as ambassador of the Palestinian State to Indonesia following the slaying of Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), to whom Hallum was said to have been very close.

Hallum spent last year setting up plans for the new daily, which will appear both in Arabic and English. Temporarily based in Istanbul, it will be printed in the northern (Turkish) part of Cyprus and distributed to all Arab and foreign countries. Assisting Hallum are Palestinian executives with no ties to the PLO. About \$5 million has been earmarked to help establish the newspaper, with Palestinian investors contributing 67 percent and the balance coming from seven other investors, including Turkish deputies and journalists.

Those in charge of AL-SALAAM said the newspaper will follow an independent line, unrelated to the liberation organization's, and that it will reflect popular leanings in the occupied territories and the diaspora, intensifying calls for an equitable solution. Contributing editors will include well-known French diplomat and journalist Eric (Rolleau) and former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

'Arafat Supporters Starting Newspaper in Cyprus

93P50175A Paris AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic
21 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] AL-SALAM is the name of the Arabic-language daily newspaper that Palestinian circles (followers of President 'Arafat's line) are preparing to publish in Cyprus next month [May]. Its capital is \$5 million, and it is run by Abu-Firas, the former PLO representative in Indonesia.

Police Force May Be Established in Territories

93AF0527B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
24 Apr 93 p 3

[Article by Ilyas Nasrallah: "New Palestinian Police Agency in Occupied Territories; Talk of New Agreement on Self-Rule"]

[Text] London—The peace process has been accelerating in an interesting manner since the Arab decision to return to the negotiating table was made in Damascus this week. What draws attention is that the Palestinian leadership at home has begun to act differently from the way it acted before this decision was made.

Observers attribute this transformation to several threats made against members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks by more than one faction within the ranks of Palestinians opposed to the negotiations. It has been noticed that a new Palestinian guard network has been formed in recent days to guard the homes of delegation members and the places they frequent and to preserve their personal security.

Despite talk by Palestinian leadership circles at home and abroad about reports of a confidential meeting recently in Tehran that was attended by Hamas and Jihad representatives and in which it was decided to assassinate a number of members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations—despite talk such as this, it has been rumored in the occupied territories that confidential accords have been concluded between the Palestinians and Israelis recently, especially in connection with some self-rule provisions, including an accord permitting Palestinians to form a police force under Faysal al-Husayni's leadership.

What confirms the truth of these rumors is the statement Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres made to the media yesterday, declaring the Israeli Government's support for the immediate creation of a Palestinian police force in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Peres reaffirmed that Israel has proposed to the Palestinians an "expanded self-rule" that permits them to "exercise their power in all areas, excluding military security and Israeli settlements."

A peaceful demonstration, which was called for by Hamas to protest the decision to return to the negotiations, was staged yesterday in front of the Gaza residence of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the negotiating delegation. This week, a group of masked individuals threatened to Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat's burn home and kill his family members if the delegation decides to return to the negotiations.

What is interesting is that unarmed Palestinian guard teams wearing civilian clothing have displayed a conspicuous presence in front of the homes of delegation members in West Bank and Gaza towns. Ten guards have been guarding the residence of delegation spokesman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from an informed source in Jerusalem that the Palestinian leadership at home has employed nearly 100 young men from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who are trained on guard duty in the new security agency for the declared purpose of preserving the delegation members' security and safety. The new agency personnel have been supplied with mobile telephones. A number of leased cars have also been put at their disposal to facilitate their movement.

Yesterday and the day before, the new guard teams took charge of transporting delegation members who had returned from Amman to their homes in the occupied territories across Jordan's bridges.

Eyewitnesses from the occupied territories report that in the past few days, occupation authorities conducted security surveys of sites of the residences of the Palestinian delegation members in the various West Bank and Gaza Strip towns and villages. This included photographing the residences from various angles. It is to be noted that the Israeli authorities provide no security guards for the delegation members.

Doctor Assails AIDS Policy in Territories

93AF0480B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
30 Mar 93 p 4

[Article by Ilyas Nasrallah: "Palestinians Concerned Over Lack of AIDS Program in Occupied Territories"]

[Text] London—Dr. Umayyah Khumash, director of operations of the Union of the Palestinian Medical Assistance Councils in the occupied territories, based in Jerusalem, yesterday violently criticized the medical administration that has been established by the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza. He accused it of deliberate neglect in the fight against AIDS.

Dr. Khumash rejected as inaccurate allegations that cases of AIDS among the Palestinian population originated from outside, charging that these allegations were attempts to cover up Israeli medical policy in the occupied territories. He said that the Israeli authorities have not bothered to set up a program designed to combat AIDS inside the territories, thus exposing its people to the threat that this fearful disease will spread.

These accusations followed reports by Israeli medical sources that revealed that there were 24 cases of AIDS among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, all resulting from contaminated blood transfusions.

Dr. Khumash said that the existence of a single case of AIDS, or any other kind of serious disease, should be enough to prompt the authorities to set up a program to fight it, let alone when the official count of the number of AIDS cases is greater than 20.

A study by Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan, head of the AIDS Department at the Hadasa Hospital in Jerusalem—the most important center for combating AIDS in Israel—

revealed that the incidence of AIDS cases was three out of every 100,000 Palestinian living inside the occupied territories, whereas the proportion for Israelis was five out of every 100,000.

According to the study, 1,207 Israelis are infected with AIDS. Also according to the study—which was made in preparation for the World Symposium on AIDS that is scheduled to be held in the United States next summer—all of the Palestinians suffering from AIDS were, without exception, outside the country being treated for various medical conditions when they received contaminated blood.

The figures relating to the number of AIDS cases among Palestinians are inaccurate, Dr. Khumash said, because there are no specialized local institutions qualified to

conduct the necessary procedures, this being the result of the circumstances stemming from the occupation. Neither are the health centers in the occupied territories and Gaza able to perform specialized procedures because of the absence of an AIDS program by the central authorities.

Dr. Khumash disclosed that Israeli data concerning AIDS-infected Palestinians is inaccurate and that some of those patients had been infected inside the country, not outside. He mentioned the case of a patient, whom he knew personally, who had been infected with AIDS while in jail. The danger of the spread of AIDS increases with the presence of tens of thousands of Palestinian workers inside Israel, mingling with Israelis who, according to Dr. Me'yan's study, suffer from a higher incidence of AIDS cases.

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